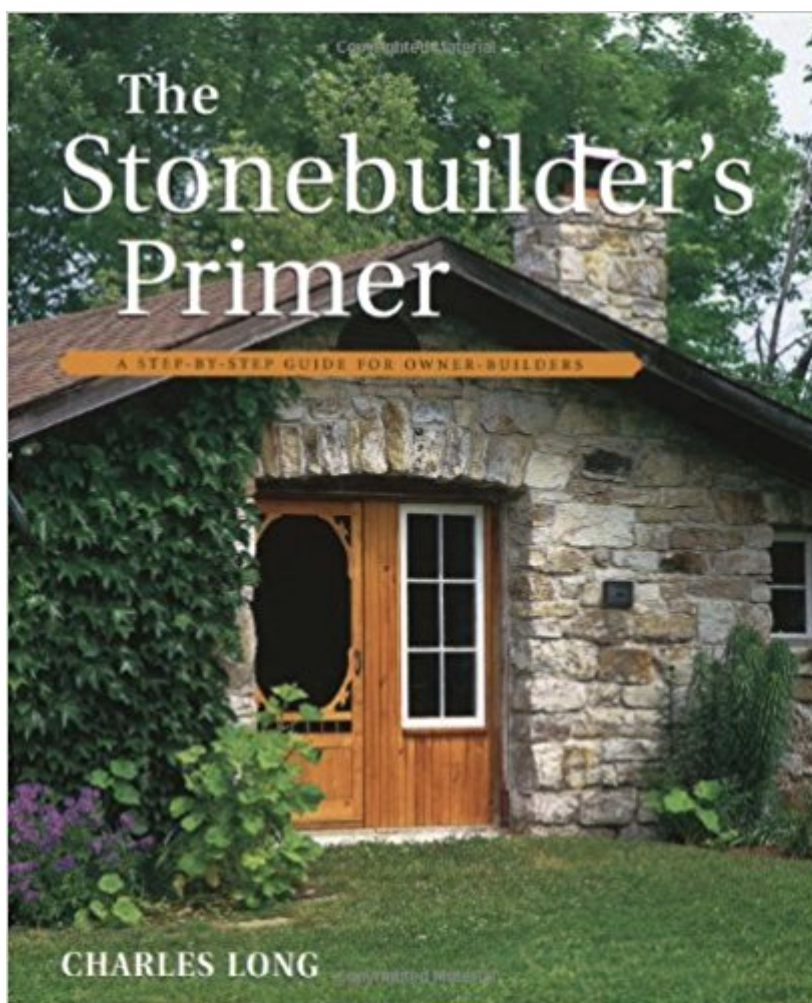


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# The Stonebuilder's Primer: A Step-By-Step Guide For Owner-Builders



## Synopsis

Writer Charles Long has a well-earned reputation as one of North America's self-sufficiency experts. More than 20 years ago, he and his wife, Elizabeth, fled city life and conventional employment for the country, and have flourished there ever since. Now back by popular demand Long's *The Stonebuilder's Primer* is a highly readable account of the couple's successful effort to build "a house that will outlast anything made of wood." Developing a compromise method of stone construction that is both simpler and truer to the stonemason's art than the popular slipform method, the Longs built an aesthetically satisfying home of stone on a limited budget and no previous construction experience. In this classic how-to book, the author describes the complete building process in clear, easy-to-follow steps and, in so doing, dispels the myth of difficulty that surrounds stone construction.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This volume is a fine, if concise, introduction to the joys and problems of constructing living spaces with stone. In 11 chapters and an epilog, Long details the basics of building with field stone, taking each step in the rough chronology of the building process. His prose is open and friendly, and the illustrations, both line drawings and photographs, deepen the text. Long's "compromise method" of construction provides a simpler method of construction than has otherwise been traditionally embraced with stone. A delight and an important work for the aspiring nonprofessional stonemason. Highly recommended.

Alexander Hartmann, Bloomsburg Univ., PA  
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[A] fascinating account.... The book provides detailed instructions that will enable anyone to build a stone house. (Desert Sun) This volume is a fine, if concise, introduction to the joys and problems of constructing living spaces with stone. In 11 chapters and an epilog, Long details the basics of building with field stone, taking each step in the rough chronology of the building process. His prose is open and friendly, and the illustrations, both line drawings and photographs, deepen the text. Long's "compromise method" of construction provides a simpler method of construction than has otherwise been traditionally embraced with stone. A delight and an important work for the aspiring nonprofessional stonemason. Highly recommended. (Alexander Hartmann, Bloomsburg Univ., PA Library Journal)

I sat down and read the majority of this book in one sitting. Actually, it was quite fascinating and the author has a pleasant down to earth manner both in his writing, but his process of building. It all seems quite straight forward. However, at 5'2" and a 110 lbs. I'm wondering if the lifting strategies are actually going to work for me. There are a lot of rocks in the Ozark Mountains, and I will certainly construct something. The only reason I gave it four stars instead of five, is I am a complete novice, and I don't know how it compares to other books about the same subject. Yep, this almost 60 year old woman is seriously thinking about this technique. We shall see!

Just what a pre-stone builder needs to read.

It's not long, but it is comprehensive and that's what makes it different. Good details are provided on materials and patterning how it's laid, which is what you would expect. I give it five stars because the authors go beyond what's expected and include information on foundations and on incorporating stone into structures. This will become a staple reference on my bookshelf.

I rarely write a review despite the fact that I read so many books, but felt this one deserved special attention. I am looking to build a log home in Southeast Alaska and wanted to have a nice rock wall foundation and a spectacular fireplace. After reading this book I am confident that I can do most of the work myself (except the footing for the foundation) and feel confident that it will look totally professional (and be bomb proof). The book is well written, very readable, has good photos, and is probably the only book you will need to do any and all stone work. It is not a book on slip form and it is not a coffee table book - it is for building in stone.

very helpful

This is an excellent beginning book on building with stone. No mention of necessary information regarding general house building is included. You are supposed to find that elsewhere. This is about building stone walls to become a building. The technique it presents is different than slipform wall building and creates walls that are remarkably good looking, straight and will endure for decades, maybe even centuries. Great book and I highly recommend it for anyone thinking about using stone as a building material.

I bought this for my cousin because he wants to build a Stonehouse. He was very pleased with the gift.

A start but more is needed.

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